

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A method of qualitatively evaluating a digital audio signal, comprising:

calculating, using a measuring system, in real time, in continuous time, and in successive time windows, a quality indicator, wherein said calculating further comprises:

- a) calculating a temporal activity of the digital audio signal in each of said time windows,
 - b) calculating a sliding average over N_1 successive values of the temporal activity, and
 - c) retaining a minimum value of M_1 successive values of the sliding average,
- and wherein:

said quality indicator is obtained from said digital audio signal that represents an analog audio signal,

said quality indicator is associated with each of said time windows, and

said quality indicator comprises a number of elements which is at least one hundred times less than the number of audio samples in a time window, said number being from 1 to 10; and

directly estimating quality of said digital audio signal as a function of said quality indicator.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein said quality

indicator comprises said minimum value.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein said quality indicator comprises a binary value that is the result of comparing said minimum value with a given threshold.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, including calculating a quality score by determining a cumulative time interval during which said minimum value is below a given threshold S_1 or by determining the number of times per second said minimum value is below a given threshold S'_1 or by determining both said cumulative time interval and the number of times per second.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein said minimum values are generated at the same time for a reference audio signal and for the digital audio signal to be evaluated and a quality is generated by comparing the corresponding minimum values for the reference audio signal and for the audio signal to be evaluated.

34-45. (Canceled)